

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02813 101044 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 IO-12 AID-20

CEA-02 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SR-02

ORM-03 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12

NIC-01 RSR-01 /177 W
----- 025725

R 091428 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8035
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2813

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, TS, IS

SUBJECT: ICFTU DELEGATION TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 064593

SUMMARY. WHILE PROPOSAL FOR ICFTU DELEGATION TO VISIT ISRAEL
IS STIPL ALIVE, CONDITIONS REQUESTED BY TUNISIAN DELEGATE STILL POSE
PROBLEM.

1. ACCORDING TO APRIL 9 COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF HISTADRUT' S
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPT (SHMUEL BAHAT) THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS
REQUESTED BY HABIB ACHOUR, OF TUNISIAN UGTT, BEFORE HE WILL AGREE
TO PARTICIPATE IN ICFTU DELEGATION TO ISRAEL ARE:

(A) VISIT JAILS IN ISRAEL WHERE TERRORISTS ARE IMPRISONED.

(B) VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS.

(C) VISIT VILLAGES WHERE HOUSES OF ARABS COOPERATING WITH

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02813 101044 Z

TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

(E) VISIT OMAR MOSQUE.

(F) INCLUDE JORDAN, SYRIA, AND LEBANON IN ITINERARY OF ICFTU DELEGATION.

2. ALTHOUGH MOST RECENT LIST OF CONDITIONS DOES NOT REFER TO OFFICIAL NAME OF DELEGATION, ACHOUR HAD EARLIER DESCRIBED ICFTU VISIT AS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. REFTEL (PARA 2) STATES THAT ACHOUR UNDERSTANDS HISTADRUT GENERAL SECRETARY BEN- AHARON PREPARED TO " CONCEDE ON THIS POINT."

3. ACCORDING TO BAHAT, HISTADRUT REFUSES TO ACCEPT VISIT AS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY OR COMMISSION OF ANY SORT. IT IS A VISIT OF A FRIENDLY DELEGATION, IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM HISTADRUT. WHILE ACHOUR IS FREE TO CALL THE VISIT WHAT HE LIKES, OFFICIALLY THE ICFTU MAY ONLY DESCRIBE IT AS A DELEGATION.

4. IN MARCH 30 MEETING WITH TUNISIAN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT VISIO WAS NOT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY BUT MISSION TO ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO REPORT RECEIVED BY BAHAT, BOURGUIBA GAVE APPROVAL TO THE VISIT.

5. IN A COMMUNICATION FROM HISTADRUT TO ICFTU SOME MONTHS AGO TRANSMITTED VIA HISTADRUT REPRESENTATIVE IN BRUSSELS AND REITERATED IN LETTER MARCH 25 FROM HISTADRUT DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY TO ICFTU, HISTADRUT STATED, IN ESSENCE:

- (A) HISTADRUT NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS OR PRE-CONDITIONS FOR VISIT BY ICFTU DELEGATION TO ISRAEL,
- (B) ISRAEL IS FREE, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY AND HISTADRUT WILL BE GLAD TO ARRANGE FOR DELEGATION TO VISIT ANY PLACE WHICH CAN BE VISITED BY FOREIGN GUESTS, CONSISTEND WITH ISRAELI SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS,
- (C) MEMBERS OF DELEGATION SHOULD INFORM HISTADRUT VIA ICFTU WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE ,
- (D) HISTADRUT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY OF ALL MEMBERS OF DELEGATION,
- (E) IN REGARD TO OTHER PROPOSALS (E. E. VISITS TO LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN), ANYONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE SUCH PROPOSALS SHOULD PRESENT THEM TO EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ICFTU.

6. ACCORDING TO BAHAT, HISTADRUT HAS " UNOFFICIALLY" INDICATED TO KERSTEN THAT CONDITIONS (CITED PARA1) SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM. BUT, HE STRESSED TO EMBASSY OFFICER, NO GUARANTEES CAN BE MADE.
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 02813 101044 Z

HISTADRUT HAS NOT CONSULTED FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY WITH GOI ON SPECIFICS OF PROGRAM. HE ADDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE WHEN GROUP ARRIVES THAT SECURITY OR OTHER FACTORS

MAY NOT PREVENT VISIT TO JAIL WHERE TERRORISTS ARE IMPRISONED.

7. BAHAT IN PROCESS OF SENDING MESSAGE TO ICFTU STATING THAT OF THREE PROPOSED DATES, MAY 28- JUNE 2 IS ONLY ONE CONVENIENT FOR HISTADRUT. (JEWISH HOLIDAY AND ICFTU- RO MEETING CONFLICT WITH OTHER PROPOSED DATES). HE ADDED THAT HE WILL SOON BE SENDING SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF PROGRAM IN ISRAEL, BUT HAS NOT THOUGHT SERIOUSLY OF DETAILS. HE SAW NO NEED TO CHECK WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON PROGRAM CONTENTS UNTIL MORE FIRM COMMITMENT CONCERNING VISIT IS RECEIVED FROM ICFTU.

8. BAHAT STATED THAT PERSONALLY HE HAS MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT ACHOUR' S POSSIBLE VISIT . HE IS CERTAIN THAT ACHOUR' S REPORT WILL BE WRITTEN BEFORE HE LEAVES TUNISIA. IT IS LIKELY THAT ACHOUR, FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, WILL CONDEMN ISRAEL, WITH ADDED VALUE THAT HE VISITED ISRAEL AND SAW WITH HIS OWN EYES. AT SAME TIME, BAHAT BELIEVES THAT VISIT BY ACHOUR WILL SHOW HIM THAT ISRAELIS ARE NOT COMMITTING ATROCITIES AGAINST ARABS, AND THAT HE MAY PRIVATELY PASS ON HIS OBSERVATIONS TO BOURQUIBA. ALSO, FACT THAT PROPOSED VISIT IS SO BITTERLY OPPOSED BY PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS MAKES IT IN EYES OF HISTADRUT MORE ENTICING. BAHAT ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE TUNISIANS ARE NOT ISRAEL' S MAIN PROBLEM.

9. COMMENT: WHILE HISTADRUT POSITION ON PRE- CONDITIONS MAY APPEAR A BIT RIGID, IT IS LIKELY THAT IT WOULD ACCOMMODATE SPECIFIC REQUESTS OF ACHOUR, WITHOUT MAKING THEM PRE- CONDITIONS. HISTADRUT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT LIKE ONUS FOR ABORTING VISIT ON ITS SHOULDERS, ALTHOUGH ACHOUR' S SECURITY IN ISRAEL IS SERIOUS PROBLEM. IF ACHOUR SEEKING WAY OUT, HE COULD INSIST THAT ICFTU LABEL ITS VISIT TO ISRAEL A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, WHICH HISTADRUT WILL NOT ACCEPT, AND MAKE IT CONTINGENT ON VISITS TO SYRIA, LEBANON AND JORDAN. IN VIEW HISTADRUT POSITION, EMBASSY HAS NOT CHECKED GOI REACTIONS REGARDING ALLEGED " CONCESSION" CONCERNING STATUS OF DELEGATION AS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

ZURHELLEN

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Subject: ICFTU DELEGATION TO ISRAEL
TAGS: ELAB, IS, TS, ICFTU
To: ADDIS ABABA
BEIRUT
EC BRUSSELS
LONDON
NEA
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

TUNIS

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